

Conference Speakers



Michael Armitage

Broadway Partners

Michael Armitage has worked in the telecoms industry since joining BT as a graduate trainee in 1980. He entered the City in 1982, before joining Morgan Stanley in 1987 where, as Managing Director, he led the European Telecoms research effort and latterly led the Global Telecoms research team. Since leaving Morgan Stanley he has been advising and raising money for technology companies, and in the last four years he has been committed to the development of the UK broadband opportunity.



David Burns

Boundless Networks

David is the founder and chairman of the UK Wireless Internet Service Providers Association (UKWISPA). He is also the managing director of Boundless Networks who provide high speed internet services to around 5,000 wireless subscribers in Yorkshire and Lancashire. David has enjoyed a successful career in a number of high technology and software firms over the past 30 years and has developed several award winning software innovations in areas such as natural language processing and mobile mapping.



Oliver Bradley

HM Treasury

Oliver is a Project Director and Finance Specialist in the Infrastructure and Projects Authority (part of HM Treasury and Cabinet Office). Prior to joining in early 2015 Oliver spent 15 years in investment banking, at Credit Suisse and then Macquarie Capital, where he focused on making principal investments into infrastructure and infrastructure like opportunities. At the IPA, Oliver focuses on energy and digital infrastructure policy and investment.



Charles Cameron

Cameron Barney

Charles Cameron is a partner at Cameron Barney, the UK specialist merchant bank which, whose partners have provided strategic and financial advice to the management teams and shareholders of a number of the UK's alternative network providers including Community Fibre, Gigaclear, ITS Technology Group, Warwicknet, WiFinity and WiSpire.



Simon Burckhardt

Vonage

Simon is the Managing Director of Vonage UK, a leading provider of cloud communications services. He joined the company in 2012 and has overseen considerable growth during his time at the helm. Simon's career has included leadership roles in international telecoms companies including Telefónica, BT and MTS in various locations, as well as a stint in entrepreneurship when he founded and ran a small business, Route 30.



Clive Carter

Ofcom

Clive is Ofcom's Director of Strategy, leading Ofcom's Strategy and Policy team. The team is responsible for developing Ofcom's overall strategy, ensuring it is prepared for emerging market development and leading on key strategic and emerging policy issues. Clive is leading the Strategic Review of Digital Communications. The team is also advising the Government on its broadband universal service policy. In the past, Clive has been involved in policy issues across all of the digital communications sectors, including

Ofcom's UHF spectrum strategy, the News Corp / BSkyB public interest test and Ofcom's work on superfast broadband.



Mark Collins
CityFibre

Mark Collins has been in the telecommunications industry for over 20 years. He was founder of Equador Consulting, a firm specialising in the development of early stage telecoms companies including Esat Telecom, Versatel Telecom, NTL and Completel. Equador was recognised as the UK's fastest growing TMT company in the Sunday Times Fast-track 100 awards. More recently, Mark was founder and CEO of the mobile media firm Muzicall, before becoming a founding partner of CityFibre.



Andy Conibere
Callflow Solutions

Starting with BT at 17, I acquired a somewhat strange life-long love of BT's network, along with a couple of first class degrees, in my 18 year stint. I established Call Flow in 2001, and have been able to leverage this background – so that we have become a UK leader in Sub Loop Unbundling (FTTC) BT's network, along with unrivalled experience of PIA (shared ducts and poles) to deliver full FTTP. I am optimistic that signalled changes in regulation to infrastructure sharing and dark fibre are about to transform the UK ultrafast landscape! Sadly I am less optimistic that Leeds United will return to the premier league.



Malcolm Corbett
INCA

Malcolm Corbett is the founder and CEO of INCA. Prior to setting up INCA, Malcolm ran the Community Broadband Network which he founded in 2004 to support local broadband initiatives through mentoring, advice and consultancy. Malcolm has a background in the Internet industry. He was a director of one of the UK's first ISPs, Poptel, and he co-invented the .coop global Internet domain.



David Cullen
ITS Technology & INCA

David is a highly experienced business developer and strategic thinker in telecoms, media and technology (TMT). He provides strategic industry insight to the ITS Technology Group Board and oversight of all ITS network activities. David has over 27 years of experience in the telecommunications sector and has also been involved in public sector transformation and regeneration for over 12 years.



Matt Evans
BSG

Matthew is CEO of the Broadband Stakeholder Group (BSG), the government-industry forum tackling strategic issues across the converging broadband value chain. Matthew joined the BSG in April 2014 and has led work on future bandwidth demand and industry input to the Government's DCIS and the Universal Service Obligation.



Shaun Fensom
CBN

As a lead consultant at CBN, Shaun Fensom advises on digital infrastructure deployment as a tool for economic development, covering technical feasibility, business case, business planning and governance issues. Shaun co-founded one of the UK's first ISPs, helping to pioneer the use of on-line technology in the non-commercial sector.



Barry Forde
B4RN

Founder of Broadband for the Rural North Ltd (B4RN), a not for profit community benefit society which is deploying an FTTH network across North Lancashire, South Cumbria and parts of North Yorkshire. He is the designer of the network and the CEO. The B4RN area is deeply rural being in the last 3-5% for broadband. B4RN is community owned and the rollout is being funded entirely by the community.



Joe Frost
Gigaclear

Joe Frost is Business Development Director at Gigaclear responsible for its BUK related business, new contracts and its wholesale business. Formerly Sales and Marketing Director, Joe has been with Gigaclear since its first Gigabit network build in 2012. Joe has held leadership and management roles in a number of Telecoms related businesses for the majority of his career.



Kevin Gaskell
ITS Technology Group

Kevin Gaskell has led iconic car brands, Porsche, Lamborghini and BMW. He turned Porsche around and after 5 years of record growth at BMW was recognised as a 'top 40 leaders under 40'. In 2000 he founded a dotcom, epyx Limited, the market leader for automotive e-commerce solutions. From 2001 – 2007 he was also CEO of EurotaxGlass's Group a world leader in electronic data. He now acts as Chairman and investor to a number of growing companies, including ITS Technology Group.



Rob Hamlin
CityFibre

Rob has extensive experience in growing infrastructure-based telecoms, media and technology companies. Prior to joining CityFibre Rob worked as Enterprise Director and Strategy Director at Arqiva, as Non-Executive Director on the board of YouView. Earlier in his career Rob was in the investment banking team at Macquarie and led Corporate Development at the international IT provider Logicalis.



Rt Hon Matt Hancock, MP
Matt Hancock was appointed Minister of State responsible for digital policy at the Department for Culture, Media and Sport on 15 July 2016. He was elected Conservative MP for West Suffolk on 6 May 2010.

After becoming an MP for West Suffolk, Matt was elected to the Public Accounts Committee, which scrutinises and questions the way that

government departments spend taxpayers' money, and the Committee on Standards and Privileges that adjudicates on MPs' conduct.

In September 2012 Matt was asked to become Minister for Skills in the Department for Business and Department for Education. In September 2013 he was promoted to become Minister of State for Skills and Enterprise, and served as Minister of State for Business, Enterprise and Energy from July 2014 to May 2015. Matt then served as Minister for the Cabinet Office and Paymaster General from May 2015 until July 2016.



Matthew Hare
Gigaclear

Matthew is the Chief Executive of Ultrafast Fibre Broadband network operator Gigaclear plc. Gigaclear builds and operates brand new all fibre ("FTTP") networks in rural parts of the UK, delivering Gigabit broadband to homes and businesses. Some of these new networks are supported by capital grants from Broadband Development UK and local authorities, improving the broadband of the hardest to reach areas. Matthew founded Gigaclear in 2010 after completing 14 years as founder and CEO of Community Internet Group and ts.com. Previously Matthew was involved in network, wireless, data and telephony businesses including Vodafone, Millicom, Microtel (Orange UK) and Liberty Communications. He is also a Council Member of ISPA.



Daniel Heery
Cybermoor

In 2003 Daniel set up Cybermoor Ltd, the first rural broadband co-op in the country and has since worked on several projects to improve broadband in some of the remotest parts of the UK. He feels that stimulating demand for digital services is key for groups in rural areas. Daniel is delivering telehealth projects to support carers and elderly people which rely on good connectivity in Northumberland and Cumbria. He was a founder member of Independent Networks Co-operative Association and Community Broadband Network and is a Director of both organisations. He sits on the Private Sector Advisory Panel for Cumbria Local Enterprise Partnership.



Stephen Hilton
Bristol City Council

Stephen is a City Strategist who is passionate about the ways in which digital technology, connectivity and data can create a society that is smart, green, connected, open and inclusive. Stephen is leaving Bristol City Council in Autumn 2016 to launch a new cities consultancy – BristolFutures.Global.



Johan Hjalmarsson
Netadmin Systems

A ten-year veteran in the telecommunications industry, Johan is experienced in both product management and technical sales, with an expertise in software development. Currently, he is responsible for product marketing, outbound product management for strategic accounts, pricing, and packaging initiatives at Netadmin.



Tim Huxtable
Hyperoptic

Tim qualified as a specialist telecoms surveyor at GVA Grimly in 2002 and went on to head the development team in Cushman & Wakefields Moscow office. He joined Hyperoptic in 2013 from Jones Lang LaSalle and brought with him a wealth of development and telecoms experience. He has been responsible for building a number of strategic relationships and driving Hyperoptic's expansion in to the UK's key regional cities.



Brian Iddon
Venus

Brian is a founder of Venus and has a long involvement in the technology industry. He holds a degree in Electronics and is a member of the Chartered Institute of Marketing. Previously Brian held roles at Microsoft and Vodafone and he is now responsible for sales and marketing at Venus.



Ben King
Warwicknet

Ben King is WarwickNet's Chief Executive and a young entrepreneur who set up his first business, a web development company in 1998, upon graduation from the University of Warwick. He developed the concept of WarwickNet in 2008 at the Venture Centre, within the University of Warwick Science Park, where he began selling connectivity to other tenants in the park.



Anna Krzyzanowska
DG Connect, European Commission

Anna is the Head of Unit "Investment in High-Capacity Networks" at DG CONNECT of the European Commission. Her task consists in keeping high-speed and quality connectivity at the forefront of policy, regulatory and financial agendas, redefining the level of policy ambition from Digital Agenda Targets to Gigabit Society, defining connectivity as the necessary condition for the success of the Digital Single Market.

She joined the Commission in 2005 to assume responsibility for implementing Risk-Sharing Finance Facility, a EUR10 billion loan facility for highly research intensive companies. Prior to this, she was a Development Director at the European Foundation for Management Development. She had worked seven years at the EBRD in London on financing operations in Central and Eastern Europe and in Central Asia.



Louise Lancaster
Relish

Louise is Head of Regulatory & Government Affairs at Relish. She has specialised in electronic communications regulation & public policy for more than 20 years. Prior to Relish, Louise has held a variety of legal, regulatory & policy positions in the industry including roles at Geo Networks, Cable & Wireless, Viatel and ACC.

Louise is a member of INCA's Board.



Rob Leenderts

INCA

Rob has more than 25 years' experience in IT and Telecoms across a wide variety of roles, including Technical Design, Market, Product and Business Development. Rob has a wealth of experience and is considered a subject matter expert in Wholesale Broadband, Open Access, Backhaul Solutions and end to end service provision, having worked for major Wholesale Carriers in the UK for many years.

Rob is also a Board Director and Vice Chairman of INCA.



Nic McCormick

Lothian Broadband

Originally from New Zealand Nic has an honours degree in Civil Engineering. Nic has a diverse skill set, including a background in construction. Nic oversees all aspects of Lothian Broadband Network's day to day activities. His remit includes planning future projects, commercial activities, opportunities and forming the company's overall strategic development.



Mike Locke

Satellite Internet

A satellite internet activist since 1997, Mike Locke's had stints at Amstrad and satellite operators, ASTRA and Eutelsat. In 2001, he started Satellite Internet (now part of Eurosat Group), to bring affordable satellite broadband to the last 5% of the UK and now contributes to BDUK USC and USO initiatives.



Dan Lewis

Institute of Directors

Dan Lewis is the Senior Adviser for Infrastructure and Energy Policy at the Institute of Directors. His most recent paper for the IoD, Towards Ultrafast Britain, called for a much more ambitious goal of 10 gbps connectivity by 2030, with particular emphasis on fibre. Dan has been working in the public policy world and contributing to the broadcast and print media since 2002; originally as Research Director of the Economic Research Council from 2003-2009. He subsequently left to start two new organisations – Future Energy Strategies which organises energy seminars in the City and develops energy data and the Economic Policy Centre which has since built a successful geospatial crime and property price online database – www.ukcrimestats.com for the insurance industry, public policy academics and the general public to use to gauge risk and track property prices nationwide.



Lorne Mitchell

Objective Designers

Lorne Mitchell is Founder and MD of Objective Designers. A seasoned consultant, commentator, interviewer and presenter at TMT industry conferences, he previously held senior positions in BT, AT&T, PwC and IBM. Lorne loves moderating discussions on the latest trends that are forcing the industry to change in the coming years.



Tim Marshall

JISCOM

Tim Marshall OBE FRSA: Following a career at the BBC and Walt Disney Tim became CEO at Janet (UK), the UK's powerful advanced research and education network. In 2014 he was appointed CEO of Jiscom, to establish Jisc's new commercial trading company and in January 2016 was also appointed Executive Director Membership and Sales, Jisc Group.



Chi Onwurah, MP

Chi Onwurah is a Member of Parliament representing Newcastle upon Tyne Central and is also Shadow Minister for Industrial Strategy & Science.

From Sept 2015-October 2016 Chi was Shadow Minister for Culture and the Digital Economy.

Prior to Chi's election to Parliament in May 2010 she worked as Head of Telecom's Technology at Ofcom focussing on the implications for competition and regulation associated with Next Generation Networks. Prior to Ofcom, Chi was a Partner in Hammatan Ventures, a US technology consultancy, developing the GSM markets in Nigeria and South Africa. Previously she was Director of Market Development with Teligent and Director of Product Strategy at GTS. She has also worked for Cable & Wireless and Nortel as Engineer, Project and Product Manager in the UK and France

Chi is a Chartered Engineer with a BEng in Electrical Engineering from Imperial College London and an MBA from Manchester Business School.



Chris Pateman

FCS

Chris is Chief Executive of the Federation of Communication Services, providing a voice for the

Comms Providers who specialise in voice and data services to business and public sector customers. Chris has spent his working life serving the business to business sector: a former business journalist, he spent five years in sales development with a national buying society and invoice factoring operation before joining the Builders Merchants Federation as managing director in 2007. He has been running FCS since 2012.



Kate Rennicks

Metronet (UK)

Kate Rennicks has been with Metronet (UK) since 2010. Following time spent in Sales and Marketing focusing on the public sector and the BDUK Voucher Scheme, she is now responsible for rolling out the company's last mile wireless network into new territories as part of an ambitious national growth plan.



Clive Selley

Openreach

As CEO of Openreach, Clive is responsible for the local access network – connecting millions of homes and businesses, the nationwide roll-out of fibre broadband and serving the country's communications providers and their customers. He also leads the deployment of ultrafast speeds to 12m homes and businesses by 2020, using G.fast and FTTP technology.



Simon Staddon

Cambium Networks

Simon is the senior Regional Technical Manager for EMEA having 14+ years continual service with the Motorola Canopy group and then Cambium Networks. In this role, Simon's experiences has helped design and build numerous large-scale WISP networks across the region including one in Italy with over 130,000 wireless subscribers.



Stefan Stanislawski

Ventura Next

Stefan is a Founder of Ventura Next – the fast growing open access active layer operator. After less than two years in business VN has over \$15m in funding, contracts in four countries and more than 10,000 ports live growing 20% each month. He is helping three new would-be fibre owners raise finance for their networks. With over 20 years consulting to boards, senior managers and regulators helping them make critical decisions in both fixed and mobile telecoms, Stefan's work has encompassed all aspects of telecommunications strategy, business development and litigation as well as participating in some \$100 billion worth of telecom financings or acquisitions. In the past he has been on the board of various telecom companies, has run a niche service provider and was Head of Spectrum and New Licences at NMT in Scandinavia.



Simon Stokes

Fluidata

Simon is the Head of Channel at Fluidata, he is responsible for the ongoing commercial growth and evolution of the Service Exchange Platform. He was instrumental in the designing and deploying the underlying backhaul network for O2 Wifi and is adept at supporting internet resellers in become Layer 2 ISPs. Simon is a supporter of Open Access Networks and is looking for opportunities to provide access to networks across the UK.



Simon Wade

Emtelle

Emtelle is a leading UK manufacturer of FTTx Products which includes Fibre Cables, Blown Fibre Tubing and Ducting. Simon Wade is responsible for FTTH Projects in UK and Ireland for Emtelle. Simon has been involved in optical fibre evolution since 1989 and joined the Emtelle team in 2011. Emtelle has delivered FTTH projects throughout the world and is establishing a market presence for all aspects of FTTx in the UK, for both urban and rural environments. Emtelle is a member of the FTTH Council.



Tim Stranack

Community Fibre

Responsible for business development and managing relationship with landlords.

Previously was chief architect of Direct Line Group's call centre infrastructure and delivering a new multi-million internet service at Cable & Wireless and then the Head of Transformation & Change at Westminster City Council.



Ben Ward

Clearview Intelligence

Ben Ward is an IoT Solutions Architect and founder of startup Flood Network. After twenty years in telecoms with major carriers and small service providers he joined Clearview Intelligence to help bring traffic monitoring and parking intelligence into the IoT age.



Dana Tobak

Hyperoptic

Dana Tobak is co-founder and managing director of Hyperoptic, the UK's leading fibre-to-the-premises broadband provider. Founded by Tobak and business partner Boris Ivanovic in 2011, Hyperoptic was the first ISP to deliver gigabit symmetrical internet speeds in the UK, and its service remains over 135 times faster than traditional ADSL speeds. Prior to establishing Hyperoptic, Tobak co-founded the ISP Be Unlimited, which provided a record-breaking service of 24Meg in 2005.



Evan Weinburg

Truespeed

Co-Founder and CEO of TrueSpeed, Evan has delivered complex multi-national, industry / government technology programs, and has extensive experience in leading technical multi-national and multi-cultural programs. Thoroughly enjoying leading the brilliant team at TrueSpeed and transforming the digital lives of his customers. Evan is a Fellow of the Chartered Management Institute (FCMI), a Chartered Manager (CMgr), and a Member of the City and Guilds Institute (MCGI).



Chris Townsend

BDUK

Chris Townsend OBE is the CEO of Broadband Delivery UK (BDUK) within the Department for Culture, Media and Sport, overseeing the delivery of the government's £1.7bn superfast broadband programme. Under Chris' leadership the programme has delivered superfast broadband to an additional 4 million homes and businesses, with total coverage now exceeding 90% of the UK. Chris is also an Executive Board Director of DCMS.



Brett Wilde

Rala

Brett is a veteran of the IT, software and telecoms industries, having managed European businesses for blue chip companies. At C&W Brett directed European ISP acquisition and integrations, before founding peering startup XchangePoint. More recently Brett drove the development of managed hosting and cloud delivery IPTV businesses before leading international OSS/BSS company NetAdmin to success at Jersey Telecom. Brett joined Swedish fibre infrastructure specialist Rala 3 years ago, providing the design and fibre optic materials package for the FTTH project in the South Tyne Valley.



Jack Zhu

Huawei UK

Jack Zhu has over 19 years work experience in telecommunications. He has done the job of R&D, solution sales, marketing. He has been working in UK for 8 years as access lead to provide solutions for the BT21CN and BT NGA project. His major specialties include PSTN migration, FTTx, NG PON, G.fast, DOCSIS3.1, Smart home, etc. He's the main speaker on behalf of Huawei Access Network in BBWF, FTTH Council, etc. He's in charge of Huawei Access Marketing now.



Wenbing Yao

Huawei UK

Wenbing joined Huawei UK in 2008 and was appointed the Director of Strategy and Marketing in 2012. Her responsibilities include developing the mid and long term business strategy for Huawei UK; driving strategic business; leading joint innovations with key customers and organising market communication activities. Before 2012, Wenbing held various positions in a global account in Huawei, leading the solution marketing and industry and research collaborations team. Wenbing received her Ph.D degree in Communication and Information Systems from Huazhong University of Science and Technology, Wuhan, P.R.China, in 2001. She was a lecturer in wireless communications at Brunel University from 2003 to 2008, and a research fellow from 2002 to 2003 in heterogeneous networking technologies and mobile healthcare systems.